



Division of Principals and Assistant Principals  
5625 Dillard Drive  
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NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Wake Principals and Assistant Principals Begin School without Certainty

CARY, North Carolina - The Wake County Public School System's Division of Principals and Assistant Principals sent a letter on the first day of classes this year. The letter was not addressed to parents to welcome their children to a new school year. Rather, it was sent to Gov. Roy Cooper and members of the N.C. General Assembly.

The group that represents more than 500 school-based administrators on advocacy issues pleaded for budget certainty as they begin the 2019-20 instructional year. Division president and principal, Teresa Caswell, stated, "Unanswered budget questions create uncertainty for staff and families as schools welcomed students to the new school year."

In the group's back to school letter to the governor and lawmakers, they spell out their concerns.

1. The proposed budget included pay increases for support staff such as school secretaries, bus drivers, child nutrition employees and custodians. Without passage of the budget, those adjustments are frozen. Scott Lassiter, assistant principal and chair of the Division's legislative committee said, "Many of these key positions remain unfilled due to wages that are so low they can hardly be considered livable. It's impossible to run a school without these key players in place."
2. Without the passage of a new state budget, professional staff such as teachers, school counselors and administrators will see their salaries remain stagnant. Their pay plans include a step increase based on years of service; however, without funding from a new budget, the group argues that promise goes unfulfilled.
3. The Division seeks the additional mental health professionals and school resource officers included in the proposed budget. Caswell noted, "More and more often school personnel are filling gaps in student mental health services that would otherwise be covered by these positions and thus allow instructional staff to focus on teaching and learning."

Upon the mailing of the letters to Gov. Cooper and the Legislature, Lassiter stated, "If our good friends on Jones Street or in the Capital need help solving this situation I know there are hundreds of skilled, trained and ready school administrators out there who could get a compromise in place. After all, we could not get away with this kind of gridlock in our schools."

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Attachment: Legislative Letter

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